

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07558 040606Z

17
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAI-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7403
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USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: EARLY RETIREMENT FOR TWO GENERALS

1. LT. GEN. DE SANTIAGO, UNTIL A WEEK AGO THE FIRST
VICE-PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT UNTIL HIS QTE RESIGNATION
UNQTE WAS ACCEPTED OVER HIS OPPOSITION TO POLITICAL AND,
PARTICULARLY, LABOR REFORM, WAS MOVED FROM ACTIVE DUTY
(B LIST-SEMI-ACTIVE) TO RETIRED STATUS IN ACTION
APPROVED BY YESTERDAY'S CABINET MEETING. ANOTHER
RIGHT WING LIEUTENANT GENERAL, INIESTA CANO, ALSO
WENT INTO EARLY RETIREMENT FROM THE B-LIST.

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PAGE 02 MADRID 07558 040606Z

2. NO REASON WAS GIVEN IN THE TERSE ANNOUNCEMENT OF

THEIR EARLY SELECTION OUT, AS IT WERE, BUT THE PRESS DREW THE OBVIOUS CONCLUSIONS. GENERAL DE SANTIAGO WROTE A LETTER, UNPUBLISHED, TO VARIOUS SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS WHICH REPORTEDLY REAFFIRMED HIS STANCE THAT THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP HAD NOT APPROVED SUAREZ' POLITICAL REFORM BUT HAD MERELY LISTENED. TO COMPOUND MATTERS, INIESTA CANO A RIGHT-WING POLITICAL ACTIVIST AND FRIEND OF ARCH-BUNKER LEADER GIRON (VETERAN'S GROUPS) WROTE AN OPEN LETTER TO DE SANTIAGO, PRAISING HIS DECISION TO RESIGN AND SAYING, IN EFFECT, THAT HE DIDN'T SEE HOW HE COULD HAVE DONE OTHERWISE, IN VIEW OF THE SACRED OATH OF OFFICE, THEREBY IMPUGNING THE INTEGRITY OF SUAREZ AND, INDIRECTLY, THE KING.

3. IN TAKING THIS ACTION WITH REGARD TO DE SANTIAGO AND INIESTA, THE KING, SUAREZ AND GUTIERREZ MELLADO, HAVE GIVEN AN OBJECT LESSON TO RIGHT WING GENERALS, HITHERTO IMMUNE TO THE MILITARY'S PROSCRIPTIONS AGAINST POLITICAL ACTIVITY, THAT THEY SHOULD KEEP THEIR VIEWS TO THEMSELVES WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY. ADDITIONALLY, IT SUGGESTS THAT THE ARMY MINISTER, ALVAREZ ARENAS DESPITE RUMORS OF HIS UNHAPPINESS AT THE WAY DE SANTIAGO WAS DESPATCHED (ALVAREZ ARENAS WAS OUT OF TOWN IN CHILE AND GOT THE NEWS OF GUTIERREZ MELLADO'S APPOINTMENT BY PHONE) AGREED TO GO ALONG WITH THIS MOVE, SINCE BOTH MEN ARE ARMY GENERALS.

4. IN ANOTHER CABINET ACTION OF POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE, THE CABINET APPROVED PUBLIC FINANCING FOR SOME OF THE BASQUE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS (IKASTOLAS).
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